The Centre to be based on the models of Microsoft Research and Development Centres in Japan and Ireland will employ Indian computer engineers who will have been trained initially at Microsoft's Headquarters, USA.

The company have informed the Department of Electronics that they have interviewed over 300 computer engineers in India during January, 1988 and have selected 44 individuals to whom they have offered software design engineering positions in the company. They have further informed that these engineers will assume temporary software development positions between 3 and 5 years in USA and after that they will be back in India to be placed in the proposed Software Development Centre.

Department of Electronics has since taken up with the company, the question of Microsoft setting up Software development centre for export in India as early as possible.

Production of nuclear plants

1225. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total installed capacity of nuclear power established and operative as on the 1st June, 1987;

(b) the quantum of power actually generated;

(c) the average cost of Kelowat of power so generated;

(d) the total quantum of additional nuclear power capacity proposes to establish thereafter;

(e) whether Government are aware of the apprehension which held very wildly by a large number of people that nuclear power stations are potentially very dangerous and despite all precautions involves series health hazards, particularly to children; and

(f) if so, what steps are being taken to allay this apprehension?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) The total installed nuclear power capacity as on *1st June, 1987 is 1230 MWe.*

(b) The cumulative gross generation of power from various operating nuclear power units since commercial operation till 30th June, 1987 is 49981 Million Kwh.

(c) The Electricity generation cost in nuclear power stations ranges from 37 paise/Kwh to 45 paise/Kwh.

(d) It is proposed to instal additional 8770 MWe electrical capacity of nuclear power to bring the total installed capacity to 10,000 MWe by the turn of the century.

(e) and (f) Government are aware about the apprehensions regarding safety of nuclear power stations among some sections of the public. Very stringent safety standards are adopted in siting, construction, design and operation of the nuclear facilities. A public awareness programme has been launched to remove misconceptions and fear about nuclear power plants.

Lost of heavy water imported from Norway

1226. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Norwegian Shipment of heavy water for making nuclear energy imported by